

January 19, 1937

MEMORANDUM for
The Military Adviser

The list as composed involves only one change in relative rank. The officer so changed is First Lieutenant Jaime O. Velasquez, who is promoted out of turn to the grade of Captain.

This promotion and change in relative rank are made for compelling reasons, which are as follows:

1. Lieut. Velasquez graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1931. He was No. 17 in his class. Since the date of his graduation, he has been continuously in the Military service of the Philippine Government. The National Defense Act provides that officers of the United States Army transferring to the Philippine Army shall be given credit for all services performed in the United States Army, including that as cadet. The original position accorded Lieut. Velasquez on the promotion list was determined without the benefit of this provision of law. Manifestly, to maintain him in his present position is not only an injustice to him but a violation of the spirit of the law under which the Philippine Army is being organized.

2. This promotion is further justified by the remarkable record of efficiency established by Lieut. Velasquez in the Philippine Army. He is universally recognized as one of the most outstanding officers of his grade, and the board has every confidence that this particular promotion will create no resentment or ill-feeling of any kind anywhere in the Army.

3. As a final reason it is to be noted that a vacancy in the grade of captain is being reserved for an officer of the Philippine Scouts who graduated from West Point two years subsequent to Lieut. Velasquez. We cannot afford so to constitute our promotion list so as to penalize any man for continuous and brilliant service in the Philippine Army.

COMPOSITION OF THE LIST

This list has been made up by applying to the authorized number of officers, which is 716 under the provisions of the Budget Justification presented by the President to the National Assembly, the maximum percentages by grade prescribed in the National Defense Act.

Under this process, the number of authorized vacancies is as follows:

General officers	8
Colonels	100
Lieut.-Colonels	18
Majors	69
Captains	216

Below the grade of Captain the percentage system does not apply, and promotion is made according to length of service.

The departures from these authorized strength are as follows:

(a) We have only five general officers and we are therefore entitled to three additional colonels, or a total of 15. The attached list shows 12 officers of the line in this grade, while one Colonel is commissioned in the Medical Corps.

(b) The list shows 16 officers of the line in the grade of Lieutenant Colonel while two are commissioned in the Medical Corps.

(c) The list shows 45 in the grade of major of the line and 12 majors commissioned in the Medical Corps. The additional 12 vacancies in the line are unfilled because of the lack of qualified officers in the grade next below. In other words, after every qualified officer in the grade of captain has been promoted to the grade of major, there still remain 12 unfilled vacancies.

(d) The authorized number of captains is 216. At the bottom of the list are reserved 88 vacancies because of lack of qualified first lieutenants. These vacancies remain after every qualified first lieutenant, commissioned as such prior to 1936, has been promoted. None of the vacancies just discussed include those reserved for officers of the Philippine Scouts expected to transfer to the Philippine Army within the period permitted them by law.

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